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United Nations Forum on Forests
Special session of the ninth session
New York, 30 October 2009
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its special session

Report of the Forum on the special session of the ninth session

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Draft decision
Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the special session of its ninth session

2. The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the special session of its ninth session (E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2).

B. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests is brought to the attention of the Council:

Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/98 of 17 December 2007, in which the Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

Reaffirming the commitment to the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[3] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[5] including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and to the common but

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Conference on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

differentiated responsibilities of countries, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/40 of 17 October 2007, in which the Council decided to develop and consider, with a view to its adoption at the eighth session of the Forum, a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework for all types of forests, aiming at mobilizing significantly increased, new and additional resources from all sources, based on existing and emerging innovative approaches, also taking into account assessments and reviews of current financial mechanisms, to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

Stressing that sustainable forest management contributes extensively to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, as well as global efforts to fight climate change and combat desertification and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, along with numerous other benefits for the betterment of the livelihoods of people,

Emphasizing that effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and recognizing in particular the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including those of Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Recognizing the insufficiency of current financing from all sources for sustainable forest management and the urgent need to mobilize new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, in particular the achievement of the four global objectives on forests, and the effective implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, taking into account the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover low-deforestation countries, medium-forest-cover countries and small island developing States,

Recognizing also the difficulties of Member States, particularly developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, in accessing funding for sustainable forest management, and emphasizing in that regard the need to simplify and clarify relevant procedures and improve access to those funds,

Recognizing further the need to raise the level of priority given to the forest sector by all Member States,

Stressing the importance of creating effective enabling conditions for investments, including private investments, in sustainable forest management, and emphasizing the need to support efforts of countries in that regard,

Recognizing the efforts that have been made by the international community, Governments, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to generate new and additional resources to address major socio-economic and environmental challenges

in recent years, including for sustainable forest management, and the need to further enhance those efforts,

Underscoring the negative impacts of the current financial and economic crisis on forests and people's livelihoods, and further emphasizing that financing for the effective implementation of sustainable forest management, from all sources, is a key aspect of building resilience in many countries, in particular developing countries,

Reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable forest management, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, in which the Council urged countries to make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation, including financial resources, to provide support, in particular for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in order to achieve the global objectives and to promote sustainable forest management by:

(a) Reversing the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management;

(b) Mobilizing and providing significant new and additional resources for sustainable forest management from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(c) Strengthening, through new and additional financial resources, provided on a voluntary basis, existing forest-related funds hosted by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including the National Forest Programme Facility, the Programme on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund, to support national forest programmes and national actions aimed at implementing sustainable forest management as well as integrating forest issues in national development programmes and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;

(d) Inviting the governing bodies of the National Forest Programme Facility, the Programme on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund to enhance their contribution to sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives by effectively managing and coordinating among themselves to facilitate access to the funds by developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

(e) Assessing and reviewing the current funding mechanisms, including, if appropriate, the possibility of setting up a voluntary global funding mechanism as a

contribution towards achieving the global objectives and implementing sustainable forest management;

(f) Inviting members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the World Bank, as host of the Programme on Forests, to maintain and enhance support to analytical work and knowledge generation and to develop new tools and approaches to key issues within the forest sector, in particular those relevant to the global objectives, in order to support developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in accessing additional national and international funding;

(g) Welcoming the ongoing work of the Global Environment Facility to clarify its focal area strategies and operational programmes, and in this context inviting the Global Environment Facility Council to fully consider the potential for strengthened support of the Facility for sustainable forest management, including the option to establish a separate operational programme on forests, without prejudicing other operational programmes;

(h) Inviting the governing bodies of international financial institutions, development agencies and regional banks to consider ways to generate and facilitate access to resources and to respond to requests from developing countries to finance forest-related activities;

(i) Creating an effective enabling environment for investment in sustainable forest management, including to avoid the loss of forest cover and forest degradation and to support reforestation, afforestation and forest restoration;

(j) Creating an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and other forest users in sustainable forest management;

(k) Further developing innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue to support sustainable forest management;

(l) Encouraging the development of mechanisms, including systems for attributing proper value, as appropriate, to the benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and trees outside forests, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies;

(m) Fostering access, where appropriate, by households and communities to forest resources and markets;

(n) Supporting livelihoods and income diversification from forest products and services for small-scale forest owners, indigenous peoples, including forest-dependent local communities and poor people living in and around forest areas, consistent with sustainable forest management objectives;

Welcoming increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, and recognizing that the Economic and Social Council Development Cooperation Forum, along with recent initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have committed to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing of results; and also bearing in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective

assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered,

Reaffirming the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries,

Recognizing the need for efficient use of financing for sustainable forest management,

Emphasizing that implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon good governance at all levels,

Emphasizing also that the United Nations Forum on Forests, as the global forum for addressing sustainable forest management policy issues, is in a unique position to strengthen coherence, cooperation and coordination in policy development related to forests and financing for sustainable forest management,

Recognizing the important role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in supporting the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group with a view to making proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the Forum's review of the performance of the facilitative process, views of Member States, and review of sustainable forest management-related financing instruments and processes;

2. *Also decides* that the open-ended ad hoc expert group will meet before the ninth and tenth sessions and submit a preliminary report during the ninth session and submit final recommendations at the tenth session for its consideration and decision;

3. *Further decides* to establish a facilitative process, to be initiated immediately following the special session of the ninth session of the Forum[6] and in the framework of the multi-year programme of work, working under the guidance of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and invites from the outset the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations to support the work of the facilitative process, and to actively engage to catalyse the implementation of sustainable forest management and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, taking into account the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-

[6] See Economic and Social Council decision 2009/240.

cover countries, medium-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover low-deforestation countries and small island developing States, with the following functions:

(a) To assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management;

(b) To assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, taking into account national policies and strategies;

(c) To identify, facilitate and simplify access to all sources of finance for sustainable forest management;

(d) To identify obstacles to, gaps in and opportunities for financing sustainable forest management;

(e) To assist countries in developing national financing strategies for sustainable forest management within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent, as called for in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(f) To facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building to developing countries;

(g) To provide advice, upon request, and to share examples of good practice in improving the enabling environment for sustainable forest management, in particular in achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to attract public- and private-sector investment and philanthropic funding;

(h) To enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among relevant funding sources and mechanisms to improve the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests at all levels and to improve the effective and efficient use of available financial resources for its implementation;

4. *Invites* countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and private-sector and other donors to support the facilitative process through voluntary financial contributions;

5. *Decides* that the United Nations Forum on Forests shall monitor the implementation and performance of the facilitative process supported by reports to the ninth and tenth sessions, prepared by the Forum secretariat in close cooperation with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other stakeholders, including regional organizations;

6. *Invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to improve dedicated information and advice services on all sources of finance for sustainable forest management;

7. *Also invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider an organization-led initiative to support the work of the Forum in helping countries on financing for sustainable forest management.

II. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

4. The Forum considered agenda item 2 at its meeting on 30 October 2009.

5. At the meeting on 30 October, a statement was made by the co-facilitator, Mr. Boen Purnama (Indonesia).

6. At the same meeting, the Forum had before it a draft resolution entitled "Means of implementation for sustainable forest management" (E/CN.18/SS/2009/L.1), submitted by the co-facilitators, Mr. Boen Purnama (Indonesia) and Mr. Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations.

7. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia (on behalf of tropical rainforest countries (Forest 11), Algeria (on behalf of the African Group), the United States of America, Switzerland, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

9. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the World Bank.

10. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the co-facilitator, Mr. Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands).

11. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairman and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

III. Adoption of the report of the Forum on the special session of its ninth session

12. At the meeting on 30 October 2009, the Chairman introduced the draft report of the Forum on the special session of its ninth session (E/CN.18/SS/2009/L.2).

13. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft report and authorized the Secretariat to finalize it with the support of the Bureau.

IV. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

14. The United Nations Forum on Forests held the special session of its ninth session at United Nations Headquarters on 30 October 2009. The Forum held one meeting.

15. The session was opened by the Chairman of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

B. Attendance

16. The Forum was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Adoption of the agenda

17. At its meeting on 30 October, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for the special session of its ninth session (E/CN.18/SS/2009/1):

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management.
3. Adoption of the report of the Forum on the special session of its ninth session.

D. Documentation

18. The list of documents before the Forum at the special session of its ninth session is set out below.

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.18/SS/2009/1	1	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.18/SS/2009/L.1	2	Draft resolution submitted by the co-facilitators, Boen Purnama (Indonesia) and Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.18/SS/2009/L.2	3	Draft report
E/2009/118- E/CN.18/SS/2009/2		Report of the Forum on the special session of its ninth session